

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action identified above, and is responsive in any other manner indicated below.

REQUEST FOR EXAMINER INTERVIEW BEFORE FURTHER ACTION

In the interest of expediting prosecution of the present application, Applicant respectfully requests that an Examiner interview be scheduled and conducted before a further Action is issued with respect to the present application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the attorney indicated on this paper at the local D.C. area telephone number of 703-312-6600 for the purpose of scheduling an Examiner Interview. The Examiner is thanked in advance for such considerations. Contact also will be attempted by the undersigned attorney to schedule an Examiner Interview. In the event that the present paper, in and of itself, is sufficient to place the application in condition for allowance, no Examiner Interview would be necessary.

PENDING CLAIMS

Claims 1-13 were pending, under consideration and subjected to examination in the Office Action. Appropriate claims have been amended, deleted and/or added in order to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention. That is, such changes are unrelated to any prior art or scope adjustment and are simply refocused claims in which Applicant is present interested. At entry of this paper, Claims 1, 2, 5-7 and 9-23 are pending for further consideration and examination in the application.

REJECTION UNDER §112, 2ND ¶ OBVIATED VIA CLAIM AMENDMENT

Claims 1-13 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the concerns listed beginning on page 2 of the Office Action. Unrelated to any prior art rejection, claims 3-4 and 8 have now been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus rendering the rejection thereof obsolete at this time. Remaining ones of the claims have been carefully reviewed and carefully amended where appropriate in order to address the Office Action listed concerns. As the foregoing is believed to have addressed all §112 second paragraph concerns, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §112 second paragraph rejection are respectfully requested.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer. That is, any above statements, or any present amendment or cancellation of claims (all made without prejudice or disclaimer), should not be taken as an indication or admission that any objection/rejection was valid, or as a disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, *i.e.*, Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

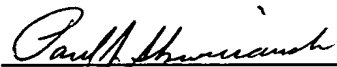
The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the local D.C. area number of 703-312-6600, to discuss an Examiner's Amendment or other suggested action for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is being submitted within the shortened statutory period for response to the Office Action dated 14 August 2003, and no additional claims are presented herein. Therefore, no Petition or fees are required for entry of this paper. To whatever other extent is actually appropriate, Applicant respectfully petitions the Commissioner for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any actual shortage in the fees to ATS&K Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing Case No. 520.41386X00).

Respectfully submitted,



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